ABSTRACT

The present invention is a woven sculpted fabric for the manufacture of a tissue web having a tissue contacting surface. The tissue contacting surface of the woven sculpted fabric includes at least a first group of strands and a second group of strands wherein the first group of strands extend in the cross-machine direction of the woven sculpted fabric and the second group of strands extend in the machine direction of the woven sculpted fabric. The first group of strands are adapted to produce elevated floats and depressed sinkers, defining a three-dimensional fabric surface comprising:

a) a first background region having a set of substantially parallel first elevated floats separated by a set of substantially parallel first depressed sinkers, comprising first depressed sinkers positioned between adjacent first elevated floats and comprising first elevated floats positioned between adjacent first depressed sinkers;

b) a second background region having a set of substantially parallel second elevated floats separated by a set of substantially parallel second depressed sinkers, comprising second depressed sinkers positioned between adjacent second elevated floats and comprising second elevated floats positioned between adjacent second depressed sinkers; and,

c) a transition region positioned between the first and second background regions, wherein the first elevated floats of the first background region descend to become the second depressed sinkers of the second background region and the second elevated floats of the second background region descend to become the first depressed sinkers of the first background region.